

00862.022278.



PATENT APPLICATION

2161
5/26/04
PA
#5

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
KAZUMA SATO et al.) : Examiner: Not yet assigned
Application No.: 09/840,892) : Group Art Unit: 2161
Filed: April 25, 2001) :
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD)
FOR COLLECTING USED)
OFFICE SUPPLIES) : May 13, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,408,079

JP 6-96094
JP11-349104

These documents were cited during prosecution of a Japanese patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the Japanese Office Action is enclosed.

English-language abstracts for the Japanese documents cited in the Japanese Office Action are enclosed. A concise explanation of relevance for each of these documents is believed to be provided by the English-language abstracts. In addition, U.S. Patent No. 5,408,079 is believed to be an English-language counterpart of JP 6-096094.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTY DOCKET NO.

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APPLICATION NO.

09/840,892

APPLICANT

Kazuma Sato et al.

FILING DATE

April 25, 2001

GROUP

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,408,079	4/95	Kobayashi et al.	235	383	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		6-96094	4/94	Japan			Abstract
		11-349104	12/99	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Japanese Office Action in JP 2001-123002

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.